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APR 21 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

VIA: CHIEF, POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE STAFF

SUBJECT: Resumption of Article Air Drops for Propaganda
Purposes in the BalkansREFERENCES: TS Memo dtd 11 Aug 1952 to DD/P from ADPC (TS 82215)
TS Memo dtd 7 July 1952 to ADPC from SE/PC (TS 81648)
TS Memo dtd 18 April 1952 to DDCI from ADPC (TS 68870)

1. During the spring of 1952 [] carried out the first of a proposed series of air operations over Albania involving the dropping of useful articles for propaganda purposes in the name of the National Committee for Free Albania. Shortly thereafter, the Albanian Premier, Enver Hoxha, announced that poisoned food had been dropped by Albanian war criminals and reactionaries who were using facilities placed at their disposal by Anglo-American imperialists. This accusation coincided with the height of the Communist bacteriological warfare campaign against the United States. Available evidence indicated that the impact of this campaign on the Albanian population was negligible. Since it was appreciated, however, that food contaminated by the Communists themselves could be used as "evidence" to support their charges, all article drops for propaganda purposes were cancelled, although reports from within Albania indicated that the first drop had met with considerable success.

2. At the time the ban on propaganda supply drops was imposed, the British, whose Albanian operations are closely coordinated with our own, agreed to postpone similar drops out of deference to the CIA position, although no similar ban had been recommended by the British Foreign Office. On the contrary, it was the belief of SIS that suspension of these drops might be construed as a tacit admission of the correctness the charges. It has also been the opinion of this Division that our failure to continue these drops amounted to a surrender of initiative at the first evidence of Communist sensitivity to a successful operation.

3. The DOFIEND [] has recently received another query from the British regarding the lifting of the ban inasmuch as they have prepared a large supply of article containers which they wish to drop in the name of the National Committee for Free Albania. In view of this request, it is believed that the

moment is opportune

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moment is opportune to reconsider the suspension decision in an effort to determine:

- a. Whether CIA should maintain its request to SIS that no propaganda supply drops be made;
- b. Whether CIA would prefer that SIS drop only inedible articles such as needles and thread;
- c. Whether CIA and SIS may recommence propaganda supply drops of all kinds into Albania;
- d. Whether CIA should recommence drops of inedible articles only.

4. In view of the reported effectiveness of these drops and the virtual suspension of the Communist bacteriological warfare campaign, it is the recommendation of this Division that the ban on propaganda supply drops of all kinds be lifted immediately in order to permit both ourselves and the British to proceed with this type of operation.

[Acting Chief, SE]

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